APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,081	01/22/2002	Eiichiro Kitagawa	03560.002981	3430

5514   7590   03/09/2007
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EXAMINER
PHAM, CHRYSTINE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2192	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 December 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *3-6,8-16,19,20,22-25 and 27* is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *3-6,8-16,19,20,22-25 and 27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

         1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

         2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

         3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since

this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the

fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous

Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's

submission filed on December 11, 2006 has been entered.

2.   This action is responsive to Amendments filed December 11, 2006. Claims 3,

12, 22 and 25 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 7, 17-18, 21, 26, 28-29 have

been canceled. Claims 3-6, 8-16, 19-20, 22-25 and 27 are presented for

examination.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments filed December 11, 2006 have been fully considered but

they are not persuasive.

        First, it should be noted that although at least the independent claims 1

and 22 recite new limitation "deleting the **menu screen**" when the medium is

unloaded, this limitation is not supported by the Specification. Instead, what gets

deleted upon detection of the unloading is an "execution **option**" that is **part** of

the **menu screen** (Specification, paragraph [0075]). As such, the limitation

"menu screen" can at most be interpreted, as an option, which is part of the

menu screen. As established in the previous Office Action (page 11), Foster

teaches when the portable information storage medium is unloaded after the

software is terminated (i.e., user selects termination of execution of the software

in the user-input accepting state), said software management unit performs a

process for deleting the option for reactivating the software (i.e., software

management unit performs a process for terminating execution of the software)

from the menu screen so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in

response to input from a user (e.g., col.2:5-15; see *412, 414, 416* FIG.4 &

associated text; see *118* FIG.1B & associated text).

Other arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant essentially contends that "Donohue fails to **detect unloading** of...

medium and fails to **delete software upon such detection...**" (Remarks, page

15, first paragraph)(Emphasis added). However, it is respectfully submitted that

Donohue is not relied upon to teach these limitations. Instead, as established in

the previous Office Action (pages 4-5), it is the combined teachings of Donohue,

Redford and Shih that teach these limitations. Similarly, Applicant contends that

"Donohue fails to ... **display a menu screen instructing to restart the**

software..." (Remarks, page 15, first paragraph)(Emphasis added). However, it

is respectfully submitted that Donohue is not relied upon to teach this limitation.

Instead, as established in the previous Office Action (page 11), Foster was relied

upon to teach this limitation. Thus, in response to Applicant's piecemeal analysis

of these references, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references

individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See

In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800

F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5.   Claims 3-6, 8-16, 19-20, 22-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first

paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The

claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in

such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the

inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed

invention.

Claim 3

Claim 3 recites "a deleting unit that deletes the **menu screen** ..." on lines 31-33.

However, this limitation is not supported by the Specification. Rather, the Specification

only discloses deleting an "execution option" that is **part** of the **menu screen** upon

detection of the unloading (Specification, paragraph [0075]).

Claim 22

Claim 22 recites "a deleting unit that deletes the **menu screen** ..." on lines 31-33.

However, this limitation is not supported by the specification. Rather, the Specification

only discloses deleting an "execution **option**" that is **part** of the **menu screen** upon

detection of the unloading (Specification, paragraph [0075]).

Claims 4-6, 8-16, 19-20, 23-25 and 27

These claims are also rejected as being dependent on rejected base claims 3 and 22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed
or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the
subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject
matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made
to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was
made.

7.   Claims 3-6, 8-11, 14-16 and 19-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Donohue (US 6,199,204 B1) in view of Redford et al (US

5,711,672 A, "Redford") of record in view of Shih et al. (US 6,405,362 B1, "Shih")

further in view of Foster et al. (US 6,121,967, "Foster").

Claim 3

Donohue teaches an information processing device (see at least *10* FIG.1 &

associated text) comprising:

- o a communication unit that communicates with a server via a network (see at least

  10, 100, 50, 50' FIGs.1,3 & associated text;);

- o a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit (i.e., <u>connection step</u>) to

  which a portable information storage medium is connectable, wherein the

  portable information storage medium stores information identifying (i.e.,

  <u>identification information of the software AND location information representing</u>

  <u>a location on the network at which the</u> *identified* <u>software is stored</u>) software to

  be acquired via a network from a server, and has a low capacity for storing the

  information without storing the software (see at least *20* FIGs.1,3 & associated

  text; *updater component 20, diskette, CD* col.6:3-10; *updater component, install*

  time col.8:25-31);

- o a reading unit that reads, from the portable information storage medium, the

  information identifying the software in the storage medium (see at least *20*

  FIGs.1,3 & associated text; *updater component 20, diskette, CD* col.6:3-10;

  updater component, install time col.8:25-31)

- o a sending unit adapted to send the information identifying the software, to be

  acquired read by the reading unit to the server through the communication unit

  (see at least *20, 90, 220,340,220'* FIG.3a & associated text; *300-320* FIG.4B &

  associated text)

o   an information transfer unit (i.e., <u>information transfer step</u>) that automatically

downloads, from the server, the software identified by the information identifying

the software to be acquired by the sending unit via the network into an internal

storage medium of the information processing device (see at least *350* FIG.4B &

associated text)

o   software storage unit that stores the downloaded software into a software

storage area of the internal storage medium (see at least *250, 290* FIG.4A &

associated text; *40* FIGs.1,3 & associated text);

o   a software management unit (i.e., <u>software management step</u>) that manages the

software stored in the software storage area of the internal storage medium (see

at least *20* FIGs.1,3 & associated text);

o   an estimation unit that estimates whether the software identified by the

information identifying the software to be acquired read by the reading unit is

already stored into the software storage area of the internal storage medium

(see at least *290* FIG.4B & associated text; *250* FIG.4A & associated text);

o   a sending unit that sends version information of the software stored in the

internal storage medium to the server when it is estimated by the estimation unit

that the software is already stored into the software storage area (see at least

col.3:50-col.4:54);

o   wherein the software management unit starts the software stored into the

software storage area when a version of the software in the server and the

version of the software stored into the software storage area are identical (see

at least *30, 20* FIG.1 & associated text; col.4:14-22); and

o the storage management unit downloads a new software version from the server

via the information transfer unit and starts the software based on the version

information transferred by the information transfer unit (see at least col.3:50-

col.4:54).

Donohue does not expressly disclose an unloading detecting unit adapted to detect an

unload of the portable information storage medium. However, *Redford* discloses

system and method of detecting the insertion and removal of the portable information

storage medium containing identification information for applications to be executed

(see at least col.1:60-col.2:3; col.2:60-col.3:37) and an unloading detecting unit adapted

to detect an unload of the portable information storage medium (see at least *removable*

storage media, peripheral, autostart driver, application Abstract; *removable storage*

media, peripheral, started process, removal, inserted storage media col.1:60-col.2:3;

col.2:65-col.3:20; col.4:10-25; *applications, host device's permanently installed storage*

media col.5:35-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of *Redford* into that of *Donohue* for the

inclusion of an unloading detecting unit. And the motivation for doing so would have

been to facilitate automatic freeing of the random access memory that were used by the

executed software and to protect the device from going into an undesirable or unknown

state when the portable medium is prematurely removed (see *Redford* Abstract;

col.2:60-65).

Donohue as modified by *Redford* does not expressly disclose a deleting unit adapted

to delete the software stored into the software storage area when the unload is

detected by the unloading detecting unit. However, *Shih et al.* teach a system and

method of detecting removal or disconnection of the portable information storage

medium from the connecting unit (e.g., see *Compact Flash memory card, software,*

removed col.3:5-20; see *28, 30, 29, 31* FIG.1 & associated text; see col.4:55-60)

wherein when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said

portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit, said software management unit

performs a deletion process for deleting the software stored in the software storage

area (e.g., see *cleaning up, releasing resources* col.3:5-25; col.6:30-55; see *removal*

message, application 220 col.7:19-30; col.7:60-67). *Donohue* and *Shih et al.* are

analogous art because they are both directed to software installation. It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was

made to incorporate the teaching of *Shih et al.* into that of *Donohue* for the inclusion of

deletion process (i.e., deleting unit) upon disconnection of portable storage medium.

And the motivation for doing so would have been to reduce potential application or

system crashes caused by referencing memory on the portable storage medium which

has been disconnected and to further free up memory for use by other applications and

programs.

Donohue does not expressly disclose "a menu display unit that displays a menu screen

to instruct restarting of the software when the software stored in the software storage

area closes after starting up and a deleting unit that deletes the menu screen displayed

by the menu display unit in a condition where the software is stored into the software

storage area when the unload is detected by the unloading detecting unit". However,

Foster teaches when the software is terminated while the portable information storage

medium is being loaded into said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit,

said software management unit displays, on a menu screen, an option for reactivating

the software so that the software can be reactivated by input from a user (e.g., see

410, 412, 418 FIG.4 & associated text; see *114, 116* FIG.1B & associated text) and

when the portable information storage medium is unloaded after the software is

terminated (i.e., user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input

accepting state), said software management unit performs a process for deleting the

option for reactivating the software (i.e., software management unit performs a process

for terminating execution of the software) from the menu screen so that reactivation of

the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user (e.g., col.2:5-15;

see *412, 414, 416* FIG.4 & associated text; see *118* FIG.1B & associated text). It

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *Foster* into that of *Donohue* for the

inclusion of medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting

execution of the software downloaded into the storage medium, and a user-input

accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-

unloading warning process is performed. And the motivation for doing so would have

been to encourage the user against incorrect removal of portable medium, thus

preventing data loss/corruption (see at least *Foster* col.1:25-col.2:15).

Claim 4

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Donohue* further teaches wherein from

the information identifying the software read from the portable information storage

medium, software identification information and location information of a location on the

network of the software are extracted and managed by said software management unit

(see at least *updater component, locations, network, required software resources*

col.3:col.50-col.4:45).

Claim 5

The rejection of base claim 4 is incorporated. *Donohue* further teaches wherein based

on an instruction from said software management unit, said information transfer unit

accesses the server by using the location information, and downloads, into the internal

storage medium, software represented by the software identification information (see at

least *updater component, locations, network, required software resources* col.3:col.50-

col.4:45).

Claim 6

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Donohue* does not expressly disclose wherein said software management unit performs a software activating process for executing the software stored in the software storage area. However, this feature is deemed inherent in the teaching of *Donohue* wherein software is downloaded and installed from a network server into an end-user's computer. It is inconceivable that the end-user's computer does not have the means (i.e., software management unit performing software activating process) for executing the software after it has taken all the necessary steps to download and install the software in the software storage area.

Claim 8

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Donohue* (as modified by *Redford* and *Shih*) does not expressly disclose wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the storage medium is being executed, said software management unit performs a medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the storage medium, and a user-input accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed. However, *Foster* teaches wherein, when the portable information storage medium (e.g., see *floppy disk, floppy drive* col.4:45-55; see *devices, media bays* col.5:1-10) is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software stored in the software storage area is being executed, said software management unit performs a medium-

unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software stored in the software storage area (e.g., see *halt processing, removed a "locked" media bay device* col.2:1:15), and a user-input accepting process (i.e., user selects termination or restarting execution of software), for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed (e.g., see *reinsertion* col.2:5-15; see *412* FIG.4 & associated text; col.8:60-col.9:25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *Foster* into that of *Donohue* for the inclusion of medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the storage medium, and a user-input accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed. And the motivation for doing so would have been to encourage the user against incorrect removal of portable medium, thus preventing data loss/corruption (see at least *Foster* col.1:25-col.2:15).

Claim 9

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. *Foster et al.* further teach wherein, when the portable information storage medium is connected again after the medium-unloading warning process is performed, said software management unit performs an execution restarting process for restarting execution of the software (e.g., col.9:15-25).

Claims 10-11

Claims recite limitations, which have been addressed in claims 3 and 8, therefore, are

rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 3 and 8.

Claim 14

The rejection of base claim 4 is incorporated. *Donohue* further teaches wherein, when

software represented by the software identification information is not downloaded into

the internal storage medium, said software management unit executes a process for

downloading the software into the internal storage medium (see at least FIGs.3,4A-B &

associated text; *pre-requisite software, required resources* col.8:25-col.10:35).

Claim 15

The rejection of base claim 14 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have

been addressed in claim 6, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim

6.

Claim 16

The rejection of base claim 4 is incorporated. *Donohue* further teaches wherein:

- o when software represented by the software identification information is

  downloaded into the internal storage medium, said software management unit

  performs a process for comparing a version of software stored in the server and

  a version of software stored in the storage medium (see at least *230-260* FIG.4A

  & associated text);

o said software management unit performs a process for initiating execution of the

software in the internal storage medium when both versions match each other

(see at least *230-260* FIG.4A & associated text); and

o when the version of the software stored in the server is newer than the version in

the internal storage medium, said software management unit performs a process

that, after downloading the software from the server into the storage medium,

initiates execution of the downloaded software (see at least *230-260* FIG.4A &

associated text; *300-310* FIG.4B & associated text).

Claim 19

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have

been addressed in claim 17, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in

claim 17.

Claim 20

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have

been addressed in claims 3 and 8, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited

in claims 3 and 8.

Claim 22

Claim recites an information processing method comprising the steps performed by the units addressed in claim 3, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 3.

Claim 23

Donohue teaches computer-readable storage medium (see at least *20* FIGs.1,3 & associated text) storing a program for controlling a computer to execute an information processing method as set forth in claim 22.

Claims 24, 25

Claims recite limitations which have been addressed in claim 3, therefore, are rejected for the same reasons cited in claim 3.

Claim 27

The rejection of base claim 22 is incorporated. *Donohue* does not expressly disclose when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium. However, *Redford* discloses when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the

software downloaded into the internal storage medium (see at least *removable storage media, peripheral, autostart driver, application* Abstract; *removable storage media, peripheral, started process, removal, inserted storage media* col.1:60-col.2:3; col.2:65-col.3:20; col.4:10-25; *applications, host device's permanently installed storage media* col.5:35-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of *Redford* into that of *Donohue* for the inclusion of interrupting execution of the software when the portable medium is removed. And the motivation for doing so would have been to facilitate automatic freeing of the random access memory that were used by the executed software and to protect the device from going into an undesirable or unknown state when the portable medium is prematurely removed (see *Redford* Abstract; col.2:60-65).

8.   Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donohue in view of Redford in view of Shih further in view of Srinivasan (US 6,460,076 B1) of record.

Claim 12

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Donohue* further teaches wherein:

o the internal storage medium includes a nonvolatile memory (i.e., internal storage) (see at least *40* FIGs.1,3 & associated text). *Donohue* does not expressly disclose a volatile memory. However, this feature is deemed inherent in the teaching of *Donohue* wherein the end-user computer downloads, and installs

executable software programs/applications. At the time of applicant's invention,

it is well known in the art that volatile memory (i.e., RAM) can be read from and

written to and is therefore used for storing application programs and data that

can be manipulated and changed. Thus, volatile memory is utilized by the

computer's CPU during program execution, and is inherent in the teaching of

Donohue. Donohue does not expressly disclose said software management

unit stores a device identification in the nonvolatile memory (i.e., internal

storage). However, this feature is deemed inherent in the teaching of Donohue

because it is inconceivable that a computer operating system functions without

maintaining the knowledge and information of the device or hardware (i.e.,

device identification) it is operating on. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that

such device identification should be saved in (i.e., written to) a volatile memory

where it can be lost due to system power outage as opposed to a nonvolatile

memory where it can later be retrieved for processing during system re/booting.

Donohue does not expressly disclose storing user information in internal storage

and device identification and user information are written to the portable

information storage medium. Donohue does not expressly disclose when the

device identification and the user information are not written, said software

management unit writes the device identification and the user information into

the portable information storage medium. However, Srinivasan teaches an

apparatus and method providing for the downloading software from a network

server to a user computer wherein user information is provided (e.g., see

authentication, verification col.4:20-40) and software (i.e., data or information) is

recorded (i.e., written to) in portable media (e.g., see Abstract; see *VERIFY*

THAT MEDIA RECORDER IS READY, DOWNLOAD FILE TO MEMORY IN

USER INTERFACE, TRANSFER FILE TO MEDIA RECORDER FIG.3 &

associated text; see *network, downloadable software, portable media* col.1:60-

col.2:36). *Donohue* and *Srinivasan* are analogous art because they are both

directed to method of downloading software from a network server (i.e.,

terminal). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art

at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *Srinivasan*

into that of *Donohue* for the inclusion of storing user information in internal

storage, and writing information (i.e., device identification and user information)

to the portable storage medium. And the motivation for doing so would have

been to provide portability or mobility for these information, enabling access to

these information when the portable storage medium is loaded on and read by a

different device for downloading software or replicating the information to other

portable or non-portable storage media through use of the device.

Claim 13

The rejection of base claim 12 is incorporated. *Donohue* (as modified by *Redford* and

Shih) further teaches wherein, after the portable information storage medium is

connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, said software

management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user

information are written in the portable information storage medium, and, when the

device identification and the user information are written, and said software

management unit finds, by comparing a device identification stored internally in said

information processing device and the device identification written in the portable

information storage medium, identity between both device identifications, said software

management unit initiates accessing of the server terminal (see at least FIGs.4A-B &
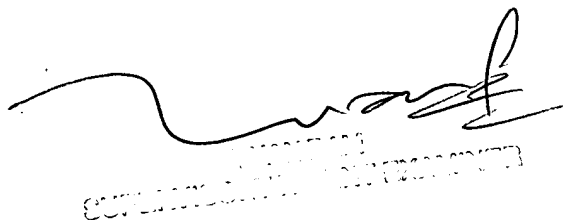
associated text).

Conclusion

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Chrystine Pham whose telephone number is 571-

272-3702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).